

# THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

*“Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing Emmanuel—God with us—in daily life!”*

## Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship - “A Little Proud”

Prophecy is fulfilled when Jesus enters the Holy City of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble & mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”—Zechariah 9:9.

Discipleship: “Less of me and more of Thee”. Not too proud. I’m a little proud. What are you most proud of? Is it hubris or God-given pride. St. Peter writes, “Be humbled under the mighty hand of God and in due time He will exalt you.” Mary in her Magnificat sings praises to God, for He has “looked on the humble estate of His servant. He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought the mighty down from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.”

This month, in honor of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, we are reflecting on the Christ Hymn in Philippians 2: “Have this mind among



yourselves, which is already yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

***“As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.” — C.S. Lewis***  
*Mere Christianity*

I got an email the other day announcing the birth of a first grandchild for a dear friend of mine.

Dianne didn’t think that she would ever get married. Then she met Wayne. Late in life, God surprised the two of them with two adorable daughters. The youngest got married on June 14, 2014. I had the joy of officiating at her wedding. The daughter recently received the gift of a daughter. The email announcement simply said, “Just Call Me Grandma”. Needless to say, Grandma Dianne is more than “a little proud”. Dianne ended her email with a prayer request for a friend who is elderly & hospitalized. “I’m not too proud to ask for prayers,” she said.

I love pie, but a slice of humble pie is not my favorite. Merriam-Webster defines humility as: “The quality or state of not thinking you are better than other people: the quality or state of being humble.” The

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## *Food For Thought:*

*“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”*

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

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## LENT: HOLY WEEK

Thanks to everyone who made Midweek Lenten Services a discipline in their faith walk with Jesus. Palm Fronds were distributed in honor of Palm & Passion Sunday. Our Maundy Thursday Worship is a foot washing service with Holy Communion at 6pm. Our Good Friday Service is at 12:00 Noon with the Bidding Prayer and a reading of the Passion Story. Easter will be celebrated with Worship on Holy Saturday at 6pm. Buried Alleluias will return and the Resurrection of our Lord will be celebrated.

### Public Reading of the New Testament

Have you ever read the entire Bible? Martin Luther read the Bible from cover to cover at least two times every year. In the 1500's, he translated the Bible into the common language of the people. He sang all 150 psalms each month during the hours of prayer. Luther had most of the Bible committed to memory.

Two years ago, during the Fifty Days of Easter, Emmanuel Members collectively read the entire New Testament. In celebration of God's great gift of Scripture, and our Lord's Resurrection, Emmanuel Lutheran will host a public reading of the New Testament this year. It is estimated that reading the entire Bible takes about 72 hours (56 hours for the Old Testament and 16 hours for the New Testament).

The Public Reading of the New Testament will take place on **Monday, March 28 from 6am - 10pm at Oasis Church.** If you would like to participate in the public reading of God's Word, serving as a Scripture Reader or Greeter, please contact Pastor Dave Steffenson. Feel free to drop by Oasis Church for a portion of the day. Bring your Bible and pack a lunch and a thermos, if you wish. We'll have snacks, beverages and door prizes.

One day, 16 hours. An amazing way to celebrate Easter and hear the Good News spoken out loud. Join us for a portion of the day, or the entire day!

## PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Each month, on the 15th day of the month, we pray for an area school. During the month of April we are praying for Sunset Terrace Elementary School and delivering goodies as an expression of our love & gratitude. Thanks for keeping students and their families, teachers and administrators, in your prayers! This ministry is supported by an Action Team gift from Thrivent.

## SATURDAY SCHOOL

Julie Steffenson is teaching our children engaging Bible Stories each week; usually corresponding with our Scripture Readings for evening Worship. MarJean Damerval is leading the children in singing. Thanks for making Children & Christian Education a priority in your family life. There is No Saturday School on Easter Eve, March 26.

## Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Our Small Group Ladies Bible Study reconvenes on Wednesday, March 30 at 1pm at Oasis Church. Last Fall we looked at Fascinating Women of the Old Testament. This spring we will engage in an Eight-Week Study looking at Fascinating Women of the Word in the New Testament. Class dates & Women of the Word are:

March 30 - Elizabeth & Anna

April 13 - The Virgin Mary

April 27 - Martha & Mary

May 11 - Mary Magdalene

May 25 - Outcasts & Untouchables

June 1 - Dorcas & Lydia

June 15 - Phoebe, Priscilla & Philip's Daughters

June 29 - Lois & Eunice

## Marks of Discipleship

Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, & give generously.

... Continued from page 1 - Pastor's Keyboard

word humility comes from the Latin word *humus* which means soil or earth. The word human comes from *humus*. An earthling was created by God from the earth to be “down to earth”. Humility is not a matter of self-deprecation. It is the gift of being “human” in God’s fullest sense of the word. Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but rather, thinking of yourself less, and others more. The two great commandments sum up humility and the mind of Christ: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.” We love others best when we love God most!

In II Chronicles 7:11 we hear that the Jerusalem Temple is completed. Solomon dedicates it as the House of the LORD. A feast is celebrated and sacrifices are offered. The LORD appears to Solomon and says, “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” A little pride is a good thing. Repentance and prayer, seeking God’s will in daily life, a down-to-earth attitude and the mind of Christ, are all marks of Discipleship. Discipleship is the fruit of our salvation IN CHRIST. Those who are humbled with Christ are also exalted with Christ. Those whom God foreknows, He also predestines, and conforms into the image of His Son. God calls, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies His elect. Buried with Christ in a death like His, we shall also certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like His. Not too proud!

Christ humbled Himself and was obedient unto the Father’s will; even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above all names. At the name of JESUS, every knee in all times and places will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is LORD to the glory of God the Father. Christ lives in us. We are His body; His bride; His temple. And so by faith, we exercise the mind of Christ and the name of Jesus in daily life. We work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, for God is at work in us both to will and to work for His good pleasure. We are Easter People. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Jesus is the Great I AM. “I AM” humbled for me and for you ... for the forgiveness of sins! Christ is Risen. He is Risen Indeed! — *I AM Humbled, Pastor Dave*

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR APRIL

### **Saturday, April 2 - Easter II (6pm)**

Pianist: Karen Salz

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Matt Serr

Ushers: Larry Vomhof & Cabe Siebenaler

Treats: Janet Sunde

Sound: Lee Pearce

Communion Assistant: Katie Siebenaler

Acolyte: Elijah Matzke

Coffee: Judy Pearce

### **Saturday, April 9 - Easter III (6pm)**

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Larry Vomhof

Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun

Treats: Julie Edwards

Communion Assistant: Jenna Serr

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

Coffee: Judy Pearce

Sound: Lee Pearce

### **Saturday, April 16 - Easter IV—Good Shepherd (6pm)**

Scripture Reader: Sharon Matzke

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Rich Sunde

Prayers & Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

Treats: Margaret Quam

### **Saturday, April 23 - Easter V: (6pm)**

Scripture Reader, Prayers, and Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun

Treats: Leitha Bothun

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

### **Saturday, April 30 - Easter VI: (6pm)**

Scripture Reader, Prayers, and Communion Assistant: Deb Vomhof

Ushers: Creig Anderson & Julie Steffenson

Acolyte: Elijah Matzke

Treats: Julie Edwards

**NOTE:** Pastor Steffenson will be our worship leader and preacher each week except April 23. MarJean Damerval will be our pianist each week except April 2. Julie Steffenson will take care of set up each week. Janet Sunde & friends will take care of the take down each week. Peg Holtan will provide the coffee each week except April 2 & 9. Don Holtan will be our sound technician each week except April 2 & 9.

## Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

1815—38th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Attn. Pastor Dave Steffenson

### Contact Information:

253-302-9845 (Mobile)  
**507-206-3048 (Home)**  
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### SAVE THE DATE!

### MEN'S BANQUET!

*The Women of Emmanuel are  
hosting a Banquet for the men  
and boys of our Congregation.*

*Friday, November 4*

## POBLO International

### “People of the Book Lutheran Organization”

Becoming missionaries at home. Effective Outreach  
through International Friendship Centers!

A free workshop will be led by pastors with extensive  
experience in outreach to immigrants and refugees. Come  
hear about their experiences and joys in serving people  
from many cultures, countries and religions.

### The following topics will be discussed:

- 1) Powerful Testimony of Converts to Christianity
- 2) Changing Neighborhood—Challenge and Opportunity:  
Sharing the Christian Faith with Muslims
- 3) The Difference between the Allah of the Quran and the  
God of the Bible
- 4) Gifted Laity becoming Gifted Missionaries in our own  
front yard

When: Saturday, April 30 (8:30am-1:30pm)

Where: Redeemer Lutheran Church (869 - 7th Ave. S.E.  
Rochester)

RSVP by April 18 - 507-289-5147

(Lunch will be provided!)

## Back Page Stories

### Men's Bible Study Breakfast:

Weekly fellowship around God's  
Word at 8am Tuesdays at Charlie's  
(1408 2nd. St. SW). Join us in being  
Evangelical. Invite a friend.

**Supermarket Saturday:** The next  
Channel One opportunity is April 16,  
2016 (9 am—Noon).

**Women's Bible Studies:** The  
Afternoon Study Group begins a new  
study - “Fascinating Women of the  
New Testament” - on Wednesday,  
March 30 at 1pm. The Evening Study  
Group is also studying Women of the  
Word. They will continue to meet  
monthly at the home of Katie  
Siebenaler. Session Six will be on  
Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30pm.

### Council Highlights (March 9):

Our budget shows a net loss of  
\$1670.00 for the month of February.  
Pastor Dave will be on vacation for a  
week in April. Pulpit supply for  
April 23 is being sought. An e-  
banking class was attended by Pastor  
Dave, Judy, Deb and Lee at Think  
Bank on Wednesday, March 9.  
Members of Emmanuel may now  
participate in electronic automated  
giving. Contributions are transferred  
on the 15th of each month. Interested  
participants should contact Deb  
Vomhof or Judy Caudill. Religious  
Expressions coverage was added to  
our Insurance policy. Lee will pursue  
“Officers & Directors” coverage  
also. The Emmanuel “Procedures for  
Handling Donations” continuing  
resolution was updated. Lee will visit  
with Oasis Leadership about outside

lighting. An Easter Ad will be put in  
the Post-Bulletin (\$280). The next  
Council Meeting is Wednesday, April  
13 at 5pm. **NOTE: Emmanuel Huddle  
will be held on Saturday, April 30  
following Worship!**

### Madonna Towers Ministry:

Pastor Dave is leading worship &  
preaching at the Madonna Towers  
Skilled Care Chapel on the first  
Wednesday of each month. Members  
of Emmanuel are invited to participate  
in this ministry to seniors of our com-  
munity. Our next Service will be on  
Wednesday, April 6 at 1:30pm. Give  
Lee Pearce a call if you would like to  
participate in this wonderful ministry.

*Pastor Dave is taking Monday as  
his weekly day off. Please call for  
emergencies only. Thanks for your  
partnership in ministry!*